

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, immediately after the title, please delete the present heading and insert the following paragraph and heading as follows:

~~Description~~

This specification for the instant application should be granted the priority date of November 19, 2002, the filing date of the corresponding German patent application 102 54 049.7 as well as the priority date of 18 November 2003, the filing date of the corresponding International patent application PCT/EP2003/012892.

Background of the Invention.

On page 2, line 8, please insert the following heading:

--Summary of the Invention—

On page 2, lines 9-11, please delete this paragraph as follows:

~~The realization of this object, including advantageous embodiments and further developments of the invention, results from the contents of the patent claims that follow this description.~~

On page 4, line 18, please insert the following heading:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--

On page 5, line 16, please insert the following heading:

--Description of Specific Embodiments--.

On page 8, line 18 through page 9, line 11, please amend this paragraph as follows:

A state that corresponds to the state illustrated in Figure 2 is illustrated in Figures 3 and 4 with regard to the associated chain strands 10, whereby the configuration of the chain strands 10 of Figure 3 corresponds to the arrangement in Figure 2, with angle brackets 14 disposed on one side. With the embodiment illustrated in Figure 4, the inner link members 11 and outer link members 12 of both chain strands 10 are each provided with angle brackets 14; the same is also true for the outer closure link member 20, so that after the terminal link segments 30 and 32 have been moved together, and the outer closure link member 20 has been inserted into the associated chain strand 10, the pertaining angle bracket 14 of the outer closure link member 20 is to be connected with the plate 15 disposed thereabove. Due to the preliminary fixation during the moving together of the terminal link segments 30 and 32, the subsequent connection of the outer closure link member ~~3020~~ with the pertaining plate 15, however, no longer represents a complicated or expensive assembly step.

On page 15, after line 7, please insert the following two new paragraphs:

--The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority document 10 2004 016 059.7 filed April 1, 2004 and PCT/EP2005/003015 filed March 22, 2005.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.—

In addition, please add the attached abstract to the specification: